TIMEX sinclair

USERS GROUP OF CINCINNATI

Vol. 2   No. 4   May, 1984

NEXT MEETING:

May 20, 1984

June 24, 1984

July 22, 1984

August 26, 1984

September 23, 1984

All meetings are held at 2:00 P.M. in room 506, Crosley Tower, University of Cincinnati.

Secretary's Report

The April meeting of the Timex/Sinclair computer club was brought to order by Bill Sieber in the absence of Rick Johnson, President. There was no old business discussion from the floor.

The announcement was made that we intend to have the club member user cards available at the next meeting.

The Quantum Leap may become available in the United States in the near future. The advance promotion mentions the possibility of a bundled package with built in software applications oriented to the business environment. There is talk of a special discount deal which may be offered to current T/S 2068 owners. We do not have anything definite at this time.

Jack Roberts gave a brief review of the Memotech computer after having had a conversation with someone who owns one. Jack got the impression that he was not totally satisfied with the performance of the machine so far. As is sometimes the case, advertising claims surpassed the goods delivered. We might do well to profit from the recent disappointments in the computer industry and take a cautious approach toward any new products, however grand the initial claims might be.

That concluded the formal meeting, afterwards many of us enjoyed the fellowship of our shared interests.

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Please submit all articles to:
    Bill Bernard
    6316 Firestone Dr.
    Fairfield, OH 45014

President's Report

There appears to be a silver lining behind the dark cloud regarding Timex's withdrawal from the computer business. We are seeing quite a lot of continued support by most of the other third party vendors. T/S Horizon has published their Shopper's Guide as promised. There is talk that Sync may have reconsidered their withdrawal announcement, Quicksilva is marketing in this country, there is tons of hardware/software for the T/S 1000, there are currently 5 T/S 2068 books at local bookstores, and there are presently 100,000+ T/S 2068's to be sold.

Within our group, we are continuing to get new members although the number per month has decreased. Jack Roberts will probably become a distributor for Timex and Aerco Disk Drives. (Fairfax Lock and Key, 3832 Watterson St., Cincinnati, OH 45227. 513-271-5575) Our software library is growing (Those who have promised software, please try to get it to me or Randy/Lucy Gordon).

We are seeing a lot of interest from other users groups. Every one of the 12 group newsletters we are presently trading with, talk about the increased communication between groups and it seems to be on the increase. We are also communicating with 8 additional groups and sending our news letter to them on a regular basis. We also have about 80 groups on our database which have recieved our last two newsletters and not responded.

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Jack Roberts has available a limited number of T/S 2068 cassettes and cartridges from $4 to $8. Jack also has some ZX81's for $20. Call Jack at 271-5575.

CONTENTS

Does QL stand for Quite Late?

Even if Sinclair holds his promise and supplies the first QL's to customers this month, most of the thousands of people who have already ordered them will have to wait three or four months (!) instead of 28 days for delivery. Sinclair is already quoting delivery dates well into June for those who sent their order forms in at the end of January.

A few QL's which have found their way out by back door means and with incomplete ROMs have been changing hands for high prices behind the scenes as software houses race to be first to produce QL games and applications.

Despite these difficulties the first QL users group (IQLUG for Independent QL Users Group) has been formed already in England. The first newsletter, Quanta, includes information on the group, a comment on Super Basic (an enhanced version of Sprectrum Basic), a discussion of the C language, and an introduction to the 68008 processor chip.

The last item in the newsletter is entitled: "Thirty-two bits indeed ! Who do Sinclair think they are kidding?" And it quotes Motorola, the maker of the chip, as calling the 68008, "a 16-bit chip with an 8-bit data bus".

Vasilios Galiatsatos

Sinclair chasing BBC contract

(the next Sinclair home micro)

The race for the BBC Micro, 1984 version, is on. Acorn (the present manufacturers of the BBC Micro) has been told to be on its very best behaviour, so that nobody can hold the BBC up to ridicule in the run-up to its re-appointment. But the idea of a Mark 11 BBC Micro is now being seriously considered, and one candidate is the next Sinclair home Micro.

Sinclair is offering it for the BBC contract (as one option) and you can be sure that the plan is not to launch it first, and then make it into a BBC design later.

The machine which Sinclair is preparing is the business microsystem using Microdrives.

The home system is expected to be announced in April. When it will be available is as much your guess as mine.

Vasilios Galiatsatos

USR 832
by Mike Coughlin

So you've loaded the copy protected program you spent the last month writing on your TS1000/ZX81, and it's so well protected that the keyboard doesn't work. Not only that but you've only got one copy. Serves you right! But there's a little known trick (first described in Syntax) that will come to the rescue.

Instead of using the normal LOAD "name" comand, use a USR call.

The LOAD and SAVE routines are unusual since they require a name string as input. The syntax checker doesn't like strings after a USR call. But there are two statements that will work.

LOAD CHR$ USR 832 "name", or
SAVE CHR$ USR 832 "name"

The USR 832 statement will start the LOAD routine, the CHR$ converts whatever is left from USR to an acceptable input to LOAD and SAVE and the whole combination gets past the syntax checker. SAVE CHR$ 832 "" is the more usual form. First your intractable program will be loaded and before it can do any funy business the save routine will execute. If you're real quick (you have five seconds) you can switch tapes and make a copy. As soon as you see the blank screen and the pattern from the SAVE routine, you can hit space and the program will be loaded but "unlocked" from any machine code or BASIC statements that normally run immediately. You can LIST and change BASIC statements, or refer to your detailed notes and POKE corrections to your machine code. You did keep detailed notes didn't you?

T/S HOSTEL SYSTEM

RICK JOHNSON

Please note the T/S Hostal program I have begun as detailed later
in this news letter. I look at this as an excellent way of stimulating
communications between groups on an extended 1 to 1 basis. It looks
like we will get quite a few people traveling around the country on
vacations, or business who want to stay with other T/S users. And the
prospects look great for Hostal providers support. From time to time
I will make a list of cities in which we have hostal providers
available to all my contacts.

I have started a system to pair up Timex/Sinclair Users who wish to
travel with those who would like to share programs, ideas, and a place
to stay with other users. The way it works is as follows:
1) Fill out the attached registration cards for either a traveler or
   a hostal provider.
2) Send the completed form to Rick Johnson, 11 Funston Ln,
   Cincinnati, OH 45218.
3) I will match up the two with a computer database search program.
   If a match is found, I will notify the traveler of the match and
   request a fee of $5.00 for the first contact and $3.00 for each
   additional contact. The fee applies only to the traveler. Upon
   receipt I will notify both parties in writing. All further con-
   tacts will be between the two parties. In the event that
   arrangements cannot be made, the two people may wish to set
   something up latter.
4) All those travelers who are paired up are encouraged to join the
   list of hostal providers.

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          VISITOR'S  FORM
Name:_____
Addr:_____
City:_____St._____
Zip_____Home Ph.____-____-_____
             Work Ph.____-____-_____
Can You Host A T/S User?_____
Can You Bring Sleeping Bags?_____
No Of People Visiting?_____
Special Conditions:_____

Cities/States To Visit   Dates:
_____     _____
_____     _____
_____     _____
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Please Note Other Stops On Back
Send To:T/S Hostel System C/O
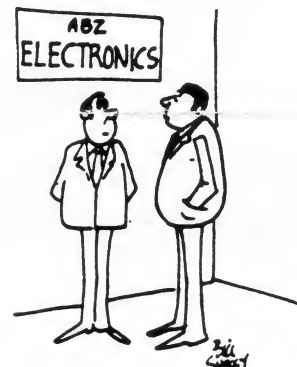   Rick Johnson 11 Funston
Thanks Cincinnati Oh 45218

Cartoon is from our friends at
CATS -- Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair
Users Group

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      HOSTEL PROVIDER'S FORM
Name:_____
Addr:_____
City:_____St._____
Zip_____Home Ph.____-____-_____
             Work Ph.____-____-_____
Spare Bedroom Available:_____
Space For Sleeping Bags:_____
Best Time For Visit:_____
Special Conditions:_____
_____
_____
Notes:_____
_____
_____
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Please Draw Map On Back Thanks
Send To:T/S Hostel System C/O
         Rick Johnson 11 Funston
         Cincinnati Oh 45218

"I don't get it – this week is almost over and
nobody's come out with a new personal computer."

Jack Roberts contributed the following diagram to allow mulitple computers to share
one television without repeated connections and disconnections. Thanks Jack.